

## **Concession speech: Arthur Fadden, Opposition Leader (Country Party)**

***Sydney, August 22, 1943***

“On available figures there has been a swing to Labour.

The joint Opposition parties submitted to electors a sound and realistic policy.

It was designed to ensure a total war effort, to maintain economic stability, and to enable us to grapple with the major task of postwar reconstruction.

Labour, on the other hand, went before the people without a policy that offered the nation any hope in the present or in the future.

Apparently many thousands of Australians preferred to give Labour a blank cheque to accepting our policy, every item in which could and would have been implemented.

Australians must surely realise the danger of giving any individual, much less a Government, a blank cheque.

I venture to suggest that it will not be long before they are awakened to the folly of their return.

However, the people have given their verdict.

We accept it.”

Source: Compiled from The Argus, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1943, page 3 and original documents.